



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

2500 Broening Highway • Baltimore Maryland 21224
(410) 631-3000 • 1-800-633-6101 • <http://www.mde.state.md.us>

Removal

ORIGINAL
(Red)

Parris N. Glendening
Governor

Jane T. Nishida
Secretary

October 18, 1999

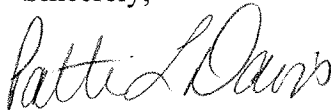
Mr. William Wentworth
Maryland Project Officer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

Dear Mr. Wentworth:

Enclosed is the Site Survey for the Drumco Drum Dump (MD-408) located in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. Based on the information available, MDE has further requirements related to the investigation of hazardous waste at this site. MDE further recommends that the site does not warrant further investigation by EPA and that it be "archived" by EPA.

If you have additional questions concerning this matter, please contact William Burris or myself at (410) 631-3493.

Sincerely,


fn Arthur O'Connell, Chief
Site and Brownfields Assessments/State
Superfund Division

AOC:cp

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Richard W. Collins
Mr. Karl Kalbacher
Mr. William Burris

ORIGINAL
(Rev)

Site Survey
Drumco Drum Dump
Anne Arundel County
October 1999

Prepared by: Maryland Department of the Environment
Waste Management Administration
Site and Brownfields Assessments/State Superfund Division
2500 Broening Highway
Baltimore, MD 21224

Prepared for: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

**Drumco Drum Dump
Anne Arundel County
(MD-408)**

AUTHORIZATION

The Maryland Department of the Environment, Waste Management Administration (MDE) performed a site survey of the Drumco Drum Dump, Anne Arundel County, Maryland as part of the Site Survey Initiative. This site survey was completed under the 1999 Cooperative Agreement between MDE and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

SCOPE OF WORK

The Site Survey Initiative was proposed to reassess the status of those sites that were previously designated No Further Remedial Action Planned by EPA. This initiative is intended to determine if site conditions have remained stable, provide a current description of the site, and identify and address any new pathways for contamination. The initiative is also intended to enable the State to determine whether the State should recommend further investigation by EPA, oversight by the State and no further investigation by EPA, or no further action be taken by EPA or the State and that the State designate the site as a "Formerly Investigated Site."

SITE DESCRIPTION

The Drumco Drum Dump is located south of Aspen Street, just southwest of the Baltimore City line in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. The approximate 14 acre property is located immediately south of the Pennington Avenue Landfill (Figure 1). The site is located at MD grid coordinates 502,000 North and 915,000 East.

Site conditions have not changed since the 1993 NUS Final Screening Site Inspection. The property currently consists of a large vacant lot (Figure 2).¹ The Baltimore City Pennington Avenue Landfill is located north of the Drumco Drum Dump site. Vacant lots exist east of the site. A rendering plant is located west of the site, and Cabin Branch is located south of the site.

OPERATIONAL HISTORY

In 1920, the Charles Walton & Company purchased the property from the South Baltimore Harbor & Improvement Company. MDE has limited information regarding site use during this time period. Apparently, the site was either vacant or possibly used as a clay or sand quarry.

In 1953, the Garratt family purchased the various lots that make up the property. The lots were purchased either directly by the family or by family owned corporations. MDE has limited information regarding site use during this time period. Apparently, the site was either vacant or possibly used as a clay or sand quarry.

In 1985, Drumco Inc., a drum recycling company, owned by George Garratt, started to utilize the property to store drums.²

In 1990, MDE discovered thousands of drums, many containing waste haphazardly stored at the site. This resulted in the MDE and the EPA conducting removal actions of hazardous waste at the site during 1990 and 1991.²

The property has apparently remained vacant since 1991.

PREVIOUS STUDIES

During the late 1980s, MDE conducted numerous investigations and environmental actions related to the operations conducted by Drumco Inc. The investigations involved two sites. One of the sites was located on Bank Street in Baltimore, and the other, the Drumco Drum Dump site, was located south of the Pennington Avenue Landfill. Drumco cleaned and recycled drums at the Bank Street facility, a process that generated caustic and other hazardous waste. Drumco utilized the Drumco Drum Dump site to store drums prior to recycling and store waste generated at the Bank Street site.

In 1990, MDE inspectors visited the Drumco Drum Dump. The inspectors discovered numerous drums that contained caustic and other hazardous waste hidden among the empty drums. MDE conducted an immediate removal of some of the identified waste. EPA conducted a removal action in 1991 in order to characterize and remove the remaining waste from the site. Removed waste included corrosive acids and bases, oxidizers, flammable and other regulated materials. In all, approximately 3,700 drums of regulated waste were removed from the site as well as approximately 1,700 drums of unregulated waste.²

Post removal sampling indicated the presence of chromium in the subsurface soils. An EPA contractor removed 430 tons of soil, and then capped portions of the site with clean fill material.

In 1992, MDE completed a Preliminary Site Assessment of the Drumco Drum Dump. In 1993, Halliburton NUS Corporation completed a Final Screening Site Inspection of the property. No additional samples were collected as part of the Final Screening Site Inspection. Based on the results of these investigations, EPA gave the site No Further Remedial Action Planned status.

GROUNDWATER PATHWAY

The groundwater underneath the site is expected to be within 10 to 12 feet below grade. Such a shallow aquifer can be easily impacted by releases that had occurred at the subject site. Groundwater is not utilized in this area for either domestic or industrial purposes. However, the groundwater can function as a mode of transport carrying contamination from the site to the Cabin Branch and the wetlands located south of the site.

SURFACE WATER PATHWAY

The current condition of the site does not appear to pose a threat of contaminating surface water runoff. However, the close proximity of Cabin Branch and its surrounding wetlands may represent a sensitive surface water receptor for any potential subsurface contamination.

SOIL PATHWAY

Based on available information, the subsurface soils of the site may be contaminated. However, it is unlikely that any contamination can directly impact human health as soils were capped following the EPA removal action. The main source of concern relating to soil contamination is the potential for migration of subsurface contamination into the neighboring Cabin Branch.

AIR PATHWAY

The population around the site was not evaluated.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the information available, MDE has further requirements related to the investigation of hazardous waste at this site. MDE further recommends that the site does not warrant further investigation by EPA and that it be "archived" by EPA.

REFERENCES

- 1 Site visit, July 16, 1999.
- 2 Final Screening Site Inspection, Drumco Drum Dump, Halliburton NUS Corporation, 1993.

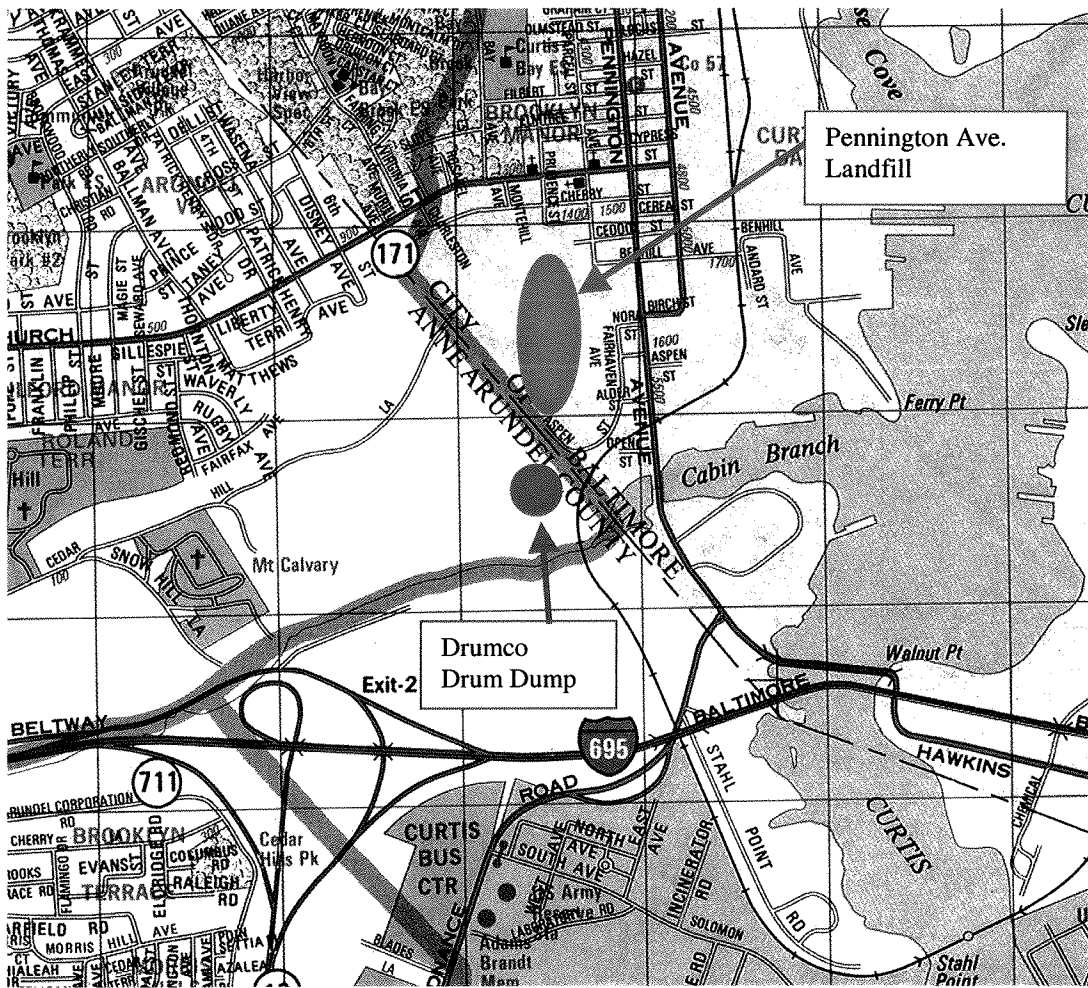


FIGURE 1: Site Location.

FIGURE 2: Site layout depicting the former location of drum piles and spills.

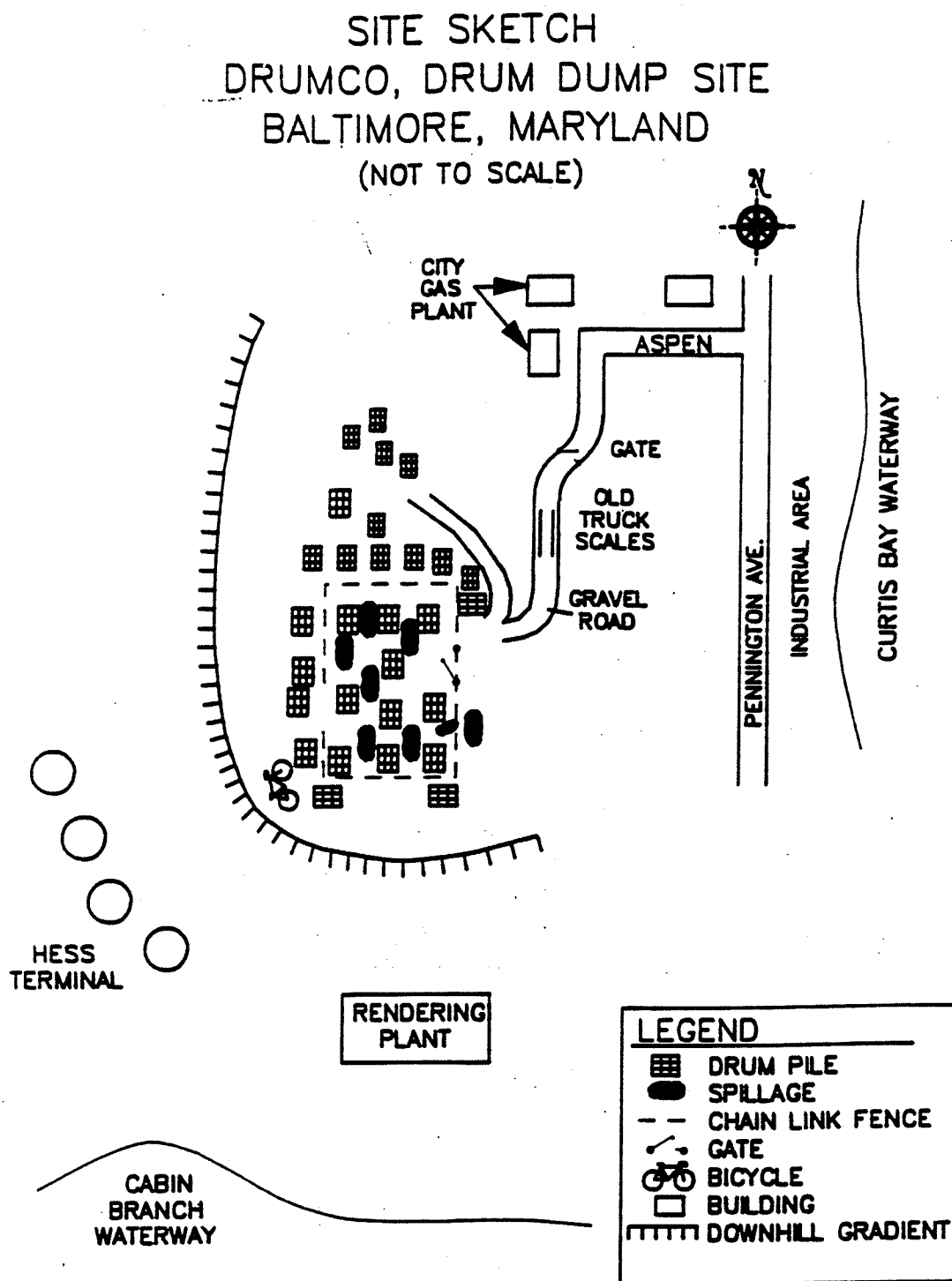




FIGURE 3: View of the entrance to the Drumco Drum Dump.

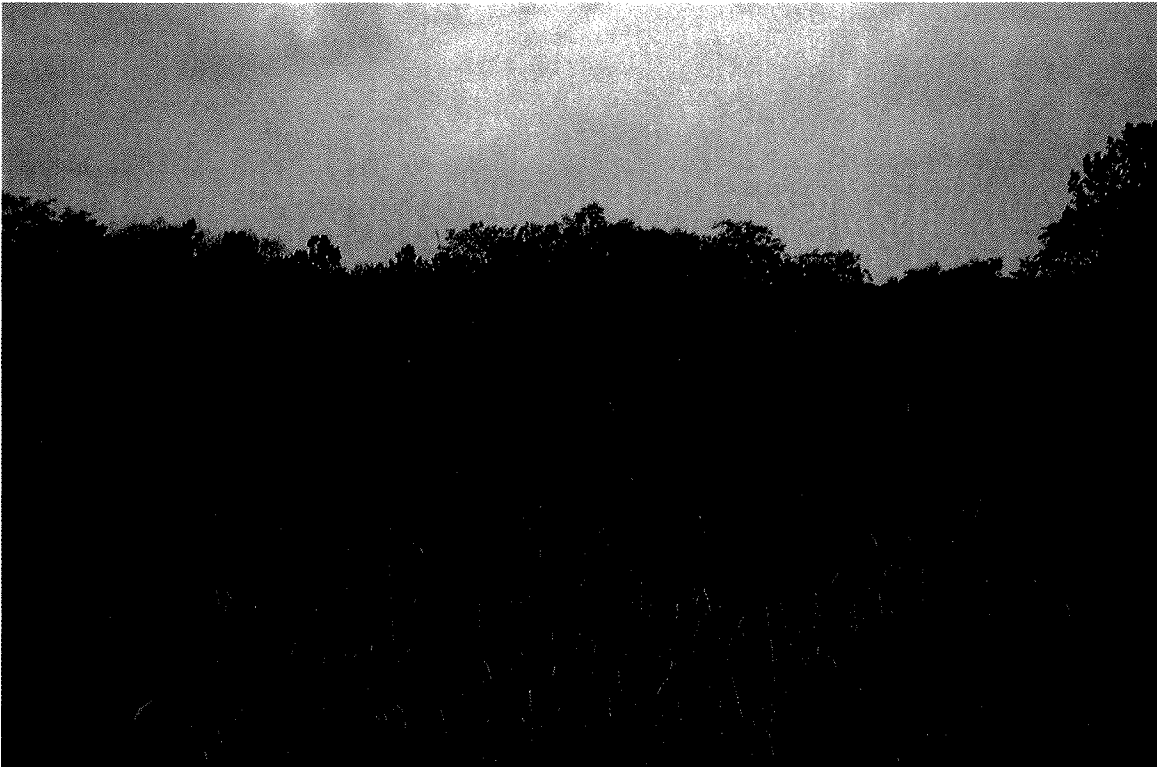


FIGURE 4: Looking south across the Drumco Drum Dump.